

II. The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity comprising:
 - a. ~~determining a first price for a commodity at a first tier;~~
 - b. determining a ~~second~~ first price for said commodity at a ~~second~~ tier with at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity at said tier;
 - c. determining a ~~third~~ second price for an insurance instrument designed to indemnify against the at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity at said ~~second~~ tier; and
 - d. offering said commodity at said ~~second~~ tier for sale at a ~~fourth~~ third price, wherein said ~~fourth~~ third price is a function of at least said ~~second~~ first price and said ~~third~~ second price.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a request from a customer to purchase said commodity at said ~~fourth~~ third price and selling said customer said commodity.
3. (Already Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein ownership of said instrument is not transferred to said customer.
4. (Already Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein ownership of said insurance instrument is transferred to said customer.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Already Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said tier-priced commodity is electrical power.

8. (Already Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said tier-priced commodity is electrical power.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity over a computer network comprising:

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- a. displaying to a customer on a display associated with a customer computer a price for a tier-priced commodity, wherein said commodity has at least a first tier and a second tier in its pricing structure and said second tier has at least one associated risk;
 - b. receiving a request to purchase said tier-priced commodity on a seller computer connected to said buyer computer via a computer network;
 - c. selling said tier-priced commodity to said customer; and
 - d. transferring to said customer the right to receive insurance indemnification against loss due to the at least one associated risk if said commodity sold to said customer is from said second tier, by the seller of the commodity.

10. (Already Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said indemnification is an insurance instrument designed to protect against loss associated with interruptions in the delivery of said second tier commodity.

11. (Already Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the price of said insurance instrument is based upon one or more factors associated with said customer.
12. (Already Presented) A system for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity over a computer network, the system comprising:
- a. a first computer;
 - b. a second computer connected to said first computer by a computer network;
 - c. commodity data storage accessible to said second computer comprising at least one tier-priced commodity having at least a first tier and a second tier; and
 - d. insurance instrument data storage accessible to said second computer comprising at least one insurance instrument designed to indemnify against at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier.
13. (Already Presented) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity comprising:
- a. determining a first price for a commodity at a first tier from a first source for a customer;
 - b. determining a second price for said commodity at a second tier from said first source for said customer;
 - c. determining a third price for a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier from said first source;
 - d. determining a fourth price for said commodity at a first tier from a second source for said customer;

- e. determining a fifth price for said commodity at a second tier from said second source for said customer;
- f. determining a sixth price for a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier from said second source; and
- g. displaying to said customer the lowest of said first price, the sum of said second price and said third price, said fourth price and the sum of said fifth price and said sixth price.

EJ 14. (Already Presented) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity comprising:

- a. determining a first price for a commodity at a first tier for a first customer;
- b. determining a second price for said commodity at a second tier for said first customer;
- c. determining a third price for a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said first customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier;
- d. determining a fourth price for said commodity at a first tier for a second customer;
- e. determining a fifth price for said commodity at a second tier for said second customer;
- f. determining a sixth price for a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said second customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier;

- g. displaying to said first customer the lowest of said first price and the sum of said second price and said third price; and
- h. displaying to said second customer the lowest of said fourth price and the sum of said fifth price and said sixth price.
15. (Already Presented) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity comprising:
- a. displaying to a first bidder a first price for a commodity and a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said first bidder against loss associated with at least one risk associated with the purchase of said commodity;
- b. displaying to a second bidder a second price for a commodity and a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said second bidder against loss associated with at least one risk associated with the purchase of said commodity;
- c. receiving bids for said commodity from said first bidder and said second bidder; and
- d. selling said commodity and transferring a right to collect against said first insurance instrument to said first bidder if said first bidder exceeds said first price by a greater amount than said second bidder exceeds said second price or selling said commodity and transferring a right to collect against said second insurance instrument to said second bidder if said second bidder exceeds said second price by a greater amount than said first bidder exceeds said first price.
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16. (Already Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising:
offering said commodity at said second tier for sale at a fourth price that is less
than said first price.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, comprising:
offering said commodity at said second tier for sale at a ~~fourth~~ third price that is
greater than or equal to a sum of said second price and said third price.
18. (Already Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said tier-priced commodity is
telecommunications bandwidth or natural gas.
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19. (Already Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the first price and the second price
are different.
20. (Already Presented) A method of selling a tier-priced commodity having a first price at a
first tier and a second price at a second tier, the method comprising:
offering for sale a bundled product comprising said commodity at said second tier
and an insurance instrument, wherein said insurance instrument indemnifies against at
least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity at said second tier.
21. (Already Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
offering for sale said commodity at said second tier price.

22. (Already Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
determining said second tier price, wherein said second tier price is less than said
first tier price.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
determining said second tier price;
determining a value of [[a]] said insurance instrument; and
offering for sale said bundled product at a bundled product price, the bundled
product price being a function of said second tier price and said value of said insurance
instrument.
24. (Already Presented) The method of claim 23, comprising:
offering for sale said bundled product at a bundled product price greater than or
equal to a sum of said second tier price and said value of said insurance instrument.
25. (Already Presented) The method of claim 23, comprising:
offering for sale said bundled product at a bundled product price less than said
first tier price.
26. (Already Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising selling said bundled
product.
27. (Already Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said tier-priced commodity is
electrical power, telecommunications bandwidth or natural gas.

28. (Already Presented) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity over a network, wherein the product has a first tier for sale at a first price and a second tier for sale at a second tier price and having at least one associated risk, the method comprising:
- a. displaying to a customer on a customer display the first tier price;
 - b. displaying to the customer on the customer display a price for a bundled product comprising the commodity at the second tier and an insurance instrument indemnifying against the at least one risk;
 - c. receiving a request to purchase said bundled product on a seller computer connected to said buyer display via a network; and
 - d. selling said bundled product to said customer.
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29. (Already Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said insurance instrument protects against loss associated with interruptions in the delivery of said second tier commodity.
30. (Already Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the price of said insurance instrument is based upon one or more factors associated with said customer.
31. (Already Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising displaying to the customer on the customer display a price for the commodity at the second tier.
32. (Already Presented) A system for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity over a computer network, the system comprising:
- a. a computer connected to a network;

- b. commodity data storage accessible to said computer comprising a price data for a tier-priced commodity having at least a first tier and a second tier; and
- c. insurance instrument data storage accessible to said computer comprising price data for at least one insurance instrument designed to indemnify against at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier; wherein said computer is programmed to compute a price for sale of a bundled product comprising the tier-priced commodity and an insurance instrument designed to indemnify against the at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier.
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33. (Already Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said computer is further programmed to offer said bundled product for sale at the computed price, over the network.
34. (Already Presented) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity:
- a. determining a first price for a commodity at a first tier from a first source for a customer;
 - b. determining a second price for said commodity at a second tier from said first source for said customer;
 - c. determining a third price for a bundled product comprising said commodity at said second tier and a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier from said first source, said third price being a function of said second price and a value of said first insurance instrument;

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- d. determining a fourth price for said commodity at a first tier from a second source for said customer;
 - e. determining a fifth price for said commodity at a second tier from said second source for said customer;
 - f. determining a sixth price for a second bundled product comprising said commodity at said second tier and a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier from said second source, said sixth price being a function of said fifth price and a value of said second insurance instrument; and
 - g. displaying to said customer the lowest of said first price, said third price, said fourth price and said sixth price.
35. (Already Presented) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity, comprising:
- a. determining a first price for a commodity at a first tier for a first customer;
 - b. determining a second price for said commodity at a second tier for said first customer;
 - c. determining a third price for a bundled product comprising said commodity at said second tier and a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said first customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier;
 - d. determining a fourth price for said commodity at a first tier for a second customer;

- e. determining a fifth price for said commodity at a second tier for said second customer;
- f. determining a sixth price for a bundled product comprising said commodity at said second tier and a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said second customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier;
- g. displaying to said first customer the lowest of said first price and said third price; and
- h. displaying to said second customer the lowest of said fourth price and said sixth price.

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- 36. (Already Presented) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity, comprising:
 - a. displaying to a first bidder and a second bidder a first price for a first bundled product comprising a commodity and a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said first bidder against loss associated with at least one risk associated with the purchase of said commodity;
 - b. displaying to a second bidder a second price for a second bundled commodity comprising said commodity and a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said second bidder against loss associated with at least one risk associated with the purchase of said commodity;
 - c. receiving bids for said first bundled product from said first bidder and for said second bundled product from said second bidder; and

d. selling said first bundled product to said first bidder if said first bidder exceeds said first price by a greater amount than said second bidder exceeds said second price or selling said second bundled product to said second bidder if said second bidder exceeds said second price by a greater amount than said first bidder exceeds said first price.

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Concluded

37. (Already Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the first price and the second price are different.

38. (Already Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the first price and the second price are the same.

39. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

 determining a fourth price for said commodity at a tier at which said at least one risk is not associated with purchasing said commodity;
 offering the commodity for sale to the customer at the fourth price.

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40. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

 offering the commodity for sale to the customer at the first price.

41. (New) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity by a utility having at least one computer, the method comprising:

 determining a first price for a first tier, non-interruptible commodity, via the at least one computer;

determining a second price for a second tier, interruptible commodity, via at least one computer;

determining a value of an insurance instrument designed to indemnify against a risk of interruption of delivery of the commodity, via the at least one computer;

determining a third price for sale of the commodity and the insurance instrument, via the at least one computer, wherein the third price is a function of at least the second price and the determined value of the insurance instrument;

offering the commodity for sale at the first tier at the first price, by the utility; and

offering a bundled product comprising the commodity at the second tier and the insurance instrument for sale by the utility at the third price.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the commodity is chosen from the group consisting of electricity, natural gas, water and telecommunications bandwidth.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, comprising:

determining the third price based, at least in part, on a purchaser of the commodity.

44. (New) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity by an entity, the method comprising:

determining a first price of a first tier, non-interruptible commodity;

determining a second price of a second tier, interruptible commodity;

determining a value of an insurance instrument designed to indemnify against a risk of interruption in delivery of the electrical power;

determining a third price for sale of the commodity at the second tier and the insurance instrument wherein the third price is a function of at least the second price and the value of the insurance instrument;

offering the commodity for sale at the first tier at the first price; and

offering a bundled product comprising the commodity at the second tier and the insurance instrument for sale at the third price, by the entity.

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45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the commodity is chosen from the group consisting of electricity, natural gas, water and telecommunications bandwidth.
46. (New) The method of claim 43, comprising:
- determining the third price based, at least in part, on a purchaser of the commodity.
47. (New) A system for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity by an entity, the system comprising:
- at least one memory to store commodity price data and insurance instrument data; and
- a computer coupled to the memory, the computer being programmed to:
- determine a first price for a first tier, non-interruptible commodity for sale by the entity, based, at least in part, on data stored in the memory;
- determine a second price for a second tier, interruptible commodity based, at least in part, on data stored in the memory;

determine a value of an insurance instrument designed to indemnify against a risk of interruption in delivery of the second tier commodity based, at least in part, on data stored in the memory; and

determine a third price for a bundled product comprising the commodity at the second tier and the insurance instrument, for sale of the bundled product by the entity, wherein the third price is a function of at least the second price and the value of the insurance instrument.

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480 (New) The system of claim 46, wherein the commodity is chosen from the group consisting of electricity, natural gas, water and telecommunications bandwidth.

49. (New) The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further programmed to: determine the third price based, at least in part, on a purchaser of the commodity.
50. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising: determining the first price for the commodity at the first tier; and offering for sale the first tier commodity at the first price.